



March 22, 2016

Mr. Tom Torlakson, State Superintendent, California Dept. of Education
Mr. Thomas Adams, Exec. Director, Instructional Quality Commission
Mr. Bill Honig, Chair of History Social Sciences Committee, IQC

Re: Support for Recommendations of Bataan Legacy Historical Society on History Social Sciences Curriculum Framework

To State Superintendent Tom Torlakson,

Dr. Thomas Adams,

Mr. Bill Honig

Members of the Instructional Quality Commission and State Board of Education:

The Philippine American Press Club USA, composed of the top 12 Filipino American publishers in the U.S. fully endorse Bataan Legacy Historical Society's recommendations to the history-social sciences curriculum framework for Grade 10 and 11 as listed below.

It has been over 70 years since the Philippines (U.S. colony from 1898-1946) and its people were called upon to put up a gallant fight against the Empire of Japan after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the Philippines. The Filipino and American soldiers of the U.S. Army Forces in the Far East (USAFPE), who suffered massive diseases and starvation as a result of the Europe First Policy, were able to disrupt the timetable of the Imperial Japanese Army of 52 days and defended the Bataan peninsula for 99 days. After the conditional release of majority of the Filipino soldiers, they joined the guerrilla movements which laid down the foundation for the eventual liberation by the Allied Forces. By the end of the war, one million civilians had perished in the Philippines and its capital, Manila, once considered as the Pearl of the Orient, became the most ravaged city in the world next to Warsaw, Poland.

Despite their great sacrifice, the Filipino soldiers who served equally with their American brothers under the command of USAFFE were denied their veterans' rights and benefits after the passage of the First and Second Rescission Acts in 1946. To this date, these rights have not been fully-restored and a majority of these WWII Filipino soldiers have passed on without seeing justice prevail.

Today, we have an opportunity to set the record straight by putting this seminal point of WWII history in the curriculum framework of California. It will be the first time that American students in high school will learn of this great sacrifice made for the freedom that we are enjoying today. California will lead the country in doing this and hopefully, the rest of the nation will follow. We urge you and the State Board

of Education to fully implement AB199 as well as to ensure that this historical framework will accurately portray the sacrifices of the Filipino and American soldiers and an entire nation during World War II.

My father, Eriberto Misa Jr, was himself a Bataan Freedom Fighter at 20 years old and survived the Death March. His experience are well documented in a book we published. "Double Life Sentence".. a chronicle of the life of a son and his father and their legacy of Prison Service (they both became directors of the Philippine Bureau of Corrections.) Several chapters included my father's personal experience as a young college ROTC who joined the Filipino and American soldiers in Bataan.

I can mail you a copy of the book should you wish to read it.

Sincerely,

Esther Misa Chavez

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Line	Current Text on History Curriculum Framework Draft#2	Proposed by Bataan Legacy Historical Society	Reason/References

703-704	American forces and their Filipino allies, who comprised majority of the troops but were poorly equipped...	The U.S. Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE) comprised of American and Filipino troops, who manned seven-eighths of the main line of resistance but were hardly trained and poorly equipped...	<p>The Filipino soldiers were more than allies (allies included Australia, Great Britain, Netherlands, New Zealand, Mexico). They were part of the same Army command - U.S. Army Forces in the Far East (USAFFE), formed on July 26, 1941 by a military order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. It eventually comprised of 19,000 American troops, 12,000 Philippine Scouts (Filipino soldiers under the U.S. Army with American officers) and 119,000 Philippine Commonwealth soldiers. The Philippine Commonwealth soldiers barely had any training (majority started training November 1941) and they were given World War I equipment, weapons and ammunition.</p> <p>Sources: Order of Battle of the United States Army Ground Forces in World War II – Pacific Theater of Operations, Office of the Chief of Military History, Dept. of the Army, Washington, D.C., 1959;</p> <p>Advanced Infantry Officers Course 1949-1950 - The Operation of the II Corps of Bataan 10 January to 8 April 1942, The Infantry School, Ft. Benning, GA; Sixth Annual Report - U.S. High Commissioner of the Philippine Islands;</p> <p>The Fall of the Philippines, Ed. By</p>
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704-705	Led by General Douglas MacArthur, the supreme commander of the Allied Forces in the Pacific.	Were under the command of General Douglas MacArthur.	<p>Lt. General Douglas MacArthur was appointed as USAFFE's Commanding General (CG) and promoted to full General on Dec. 19, 1941.</p> <p>On April 18, 1942, the command of the Southwest Pacific Area (SWPA) was established in Australia in which the Commanding General of USAFFE (MacArthur) became Commander in Chief.</p> <p>On April 6, 1945, Gen. MacArthur became the Commander in Chief of the U.S. Army Forces, Pacific (CINCAFPAC).</p> <p>It was only August 14, 1945, that he was appointed as the Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers in the Pacific, following the Potsdam agreement of July 26, 1945.</p> <p>Sources: Order of Battle of the United States Army Ground Forces in World War II – Pacific Theater of Operations, Office of the Chief of Military History, Dept. of the Army, Washington, D.C., 1959;</p> <p>Memorandum for the President, Subject: Authority of the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers (U.S. National Archives & Records Administration), Date September 13, 1945.</p>
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705-706	...Were unable to defend the territory and ultimately retreated to the jungles of the Bataan Peninsula.	...Were unable to defend the territory and ultimately retreated to the jungles of the Bataan Peninsula in accordance with War Plan Orange 3.	<p>The retreat to Bataan was part of the war strategy, War Plan Orange 3 (WPO3) incorporated in Rainbow Plan 5. General Douglas MacArthur changed the war plan in October, 1941 to meet the enemy on the beaches instead of following War Plan Orange 3 (WPO3) which called for retreating to the Bataan Peninsula in the event of a successful Japanese invasion. Resources were distributed according to the new plan. On December 24, 1941, General MacArthur reverted to WPO3 and withdrawal to Bataan took effect immediately.</p> <p>Sources: War Plan Orange by Edward W. Miller;</p> <p>Order of Battle of the United States Army Ground Forces in World War II – Pacific Theater of Operations, Office of the Chief of Military History, Dept. of the Army, Washington, D.C., 1959;</p> <p>The Fall of the Philippines, Ed. By Louis Morton; WWII in the Pacific, Dept. of History, US Military Academy</p>
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706-708	<p>Although American and Filipino troops lacked ammunition and food, and thousands were sick from malaria, and dengue fever, they managed to defend Bataan for 99 days.</p>	<p>Despite suffering from massive diseases and starvation and fighting without any air support, the USAFFE troops performed a delaying action that disrupted the timetable of the Imperial Japanese Army of 52 days, defending Bataan for 99 days.</p>	<p>Majority of the planes of the Far East Air Force were destroyed during the first week of the war and only a few reconnaissance planes existed as of December 13, 1941.</p> <p>The troops were put on half rations on January 5, 1942 and on quarter rations by March, 1942.</p> <p>General MacArthur addressed the troops on Jan. 15 that help was on the way but no reinforcements ever came.</p> <p>War Plan Orange 3 (incorporated under Rainbow Plan 5) called for a delaying action in the Philippines. This enabled the Allied Forces to harness the resources that eventually led to their victory in the Pacific.</p> <p>Sources: Order of Battle of the United States Army Ground Forces in World War II – Pacific Theater of Operations, Office of the Chief of Military History, Dept. of the Army, Washington, D.C., 1959;</p> <p>Advanced Infantry Officers Course 1949-1950 - The Operation of the II Corps of Bataan 10 January to 8 April 1942, The Infantry School, Ft. Benning, GA;</p> <p>Navy Basic War Plan Rainbow #5;</p>
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709	MacArthur fled to Australia during this period, vowing, "I shall return."	On March 12, 1942, General MacArthur left the Philippines for Australia.	<p>Gen. MacArthur did not flee. He was ordered to leave in February, 1942 and head to Australia in accordance with Rainbow Plan 5. On March 12, 1942, he left the Philippines for Australia.</p> <p>NOTE: Please include only facts and events of the war. Delete reference to "I shall return" as this does not add value to the framework and only continues to mystify General MacArthur.</p> <p>Sources: Order of Battle of the United States Army Ground Forces in World War II – Pacific Theater of Operations, Office of the Chief of Military History, Dept. of the Army, Washington, D.C., 1959;</p> <p>The Fall of the Philippines, Ed. By Louis Morton; WWII in the Pacific , Dept. of History, US Military Academy</p>
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709-720	<p>On April 9, 1942, General Ned King, US Commander of all ground troops in Bataan, surrendered his 76,000 sick and starving troops (American and Filipino) to the Japanese in one of the most grievous defeats in American military history. The captured soldiers were then forced to march more than 60 miles north in what became known as the Bataan Death March. Conditions during the march were brutal. POWs who couldn't keep due to exhaustion or a lack of food or water, they were beaten, bayoneted, shot or in some cases, beheaded by Japanese soldiers; approximately 10,000 Filipinos and 750 Americans died along the way. If the POWs survived the grueling trek, they were packed into pre-war boxcars for transport to prison camps. Thousands of soldiers died in the journey and in the camps from sickness and starvation.</p>	<p>On April 9, 1942, General Edward P. King, Jr., Commanding General of Luzon Force surrendered 75,000 troops of 63,000 Filipinos and 12,000 Americans, mainly suffering from diseases and starvation. They were forced to march to their prison camp at Camp O'Donnell located some 60 miles away with no provisions for food, water or shelter. Those who could no longer go on were beaten, bayoneted, shot and in some cases even beheaded by their Japanese captors. Upon reaching San Fernando Train Station, they were crammed in boxcars where many died while standing. Approximately 10,000 Filipinos and 750 Americans died in what became known as the Bataan Death March. Once inside their prison camp, approximately 20,000 Filipinos and 1600 Americans died. A majority of the American prisoners were later transported under dismal conditions in the hulls of unmarked ships to Japan, China, Formosa and Korea where they worked as slave laborers. Approximately 5,000 died in so called "Hell Ships" a majority from friendly fire, others from starvation, disease or execution. Many more died in these labor camps because of dismal conditions.</p>	<p>Please use General Edward P. King, Jr. which is his real name.</p> <p>The USAFFE troops were placed on half rations early January. By February, quinine, the cure for malaria was no longer given to the soldiers. By March, the troops were placed on quarter rations; 500 soldiers/day were afflicted with malaria and dysentery. By April, there were no longer any reserve troops. By April 7, only 2 days' worth of quarter rations remained.</p> <p>Majority of the death toll during the Bataan Death march took place during the actual march and not during the boxcar ride.</p> <p>The fate of the American prisoners of war needs to be included in this segment as they were part of USAFFE. Death rate for American POW's was 40%.</p> <p>Sources: Order of Battle of the United States Army Ground Forces in World War II – Pacific Theater of Operations, Office of the Chief of Military History, Dept. of the Army, Washington, D.C., 1959;</p> <p>The Fall of the Philippines, Ed. By Louis Morton; WWII in the Pacific, Dept. of History, US Military Academy;</p> <p>Congressional Research Service</p>
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720-725	<p>Over the next three years, the US employed an island-hopping strategy to push back the Japanese advance. In February 1945 American and Filipino forces finally recaptured the Bataan peninsula, Manila was liberated the next month. By the end of the war, approximately 1,000,000 civilians had died and Manila became the second most devastated city in the world after Warsaw.</p>	<p>During the next 3 years, the Filipinos and Americans formed guerrilla groups which laid the groundwork for the liberation. General MacArthur and his troops landed in Leyte on October 20, 1944. On October 23 to 26, the Battle of Leyte Gulf, the largest naval battle ever, destroyed the Imperial Japanese Navy. Manila was liberated by March 1945 by intense fighting killing 100,000 civilians, approximately half by Japanese massacre. By the end of the war, approximately 1,000,000 civilians had died and Manila became the second most devastated city in the world after Warsaw, Poland.</p>	<p>The guerrillas played a huge part in the liberation of the Philippines and aided the American forces in the rescue of American POWs and internees.</p> <p>The capture of the Bataan Peninsula was no longer crucial at this time. The most crucial events were the Leyte Landing by General MacArthur (Oct. 20, 1944), the Battle of Leyte Gulf (October 23 to 26, 1944) which essentially destroyed the Imperial Japanese Navy (remains as the largest naval battle in military history) and the liberation of Manila.</p> <p>Sources: The Fall of the Philippines, Ed. By Louis Morton; WWII in the Pacific, Dept. of History, US Military Academy; Nimitz Graybook; Proceedings of the Conference WWII in the Philippines, Remembering 60 Years After, National Historical Commission of the Philippines</p>
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